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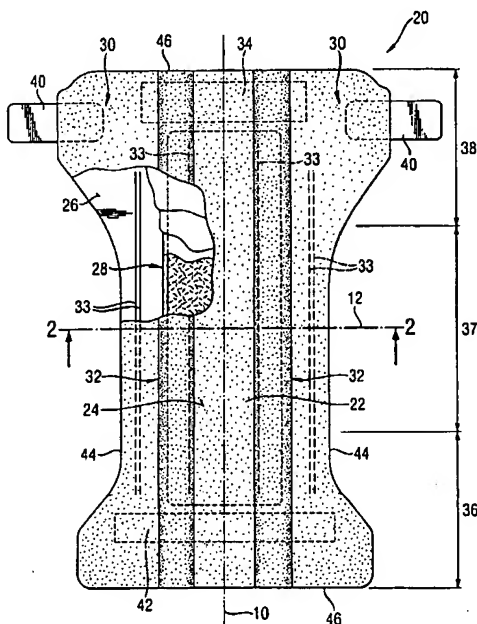
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(54) Title: **THIN AND DRY DIAPER**



(57) Abstract: The present invention concerns an absorbent article, preferably a disposable absorbent article, such as a diaper. An absorbent core useful for an absorbent article is disclosed which imparts increased wearing comfort to the article and makes it thin and dry. Further disclosed is a process for obtaining such a core. Specifically disclosed is an absorbent core useful for an absorbent article comprising a substrate layer, the substrate layer comprising a first surface and a second surface, the absorbent core further comprising a discontinuous layer of absorbent material, the absorbent material comprising an absorbent polymer material, the absorbent material optionally comprising an absorbent fibrous material and the absorbent fibrous material not representing more than 20 weight percent of the total weight of the absorbent polymer material, the discontinuous layer of absorbent material comprising a first surface and a second surface, the absorbent core further comprising a layer of thermoplastic material, the layer of thermoplastic material comprising a first surface and a second surface and wherein the second surface of the discontinuous layer of absorbent material is in at least partial contact with the first surface of the substrate layer and wherein portions of the second surface of the layer of thermoplastic material are in direct contact with the first surface of the substrate layer and portions of the second surface of the layer of thermoplastic material are in direct contact with the first surface of the discontinuous layer of absorbent material. Further disclosed is a process for providing a storage layer for

an absorbent core useful in an absorbent article, the process comprising the steps of: - providing a substrate material comprising a first surface and a second surface - depositing absorbent material onto the first surface of the substrate material in a pattern, the pattern comprising at least one zone which is substantially free of absorbent material, and the pattern comprising at least one zone comprising absorbent material - depositing a thermoplastic material onto the first surface of the substrate material and the absorbent material, such that portions of the thermoplastic material are in direct contact with the first surface of the substrate and portions of the thermoplastic material are in direct contact with the absorbent material.



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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

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X	US 5 425 725 A (TANZER RICHARD W ET AL) 20 June 1995 (1995-06-20) column 19, line 53 - column 22, line 29; figures column 13, line 28 - column 14, line 37 column 28, line 66 - column 29, line 6 -----	1-16
X	US 2002/102392 A1 (BORDERS RICHARD A ET AL) 1 August 2002 (2002-08-01) paragraph '0027! - paragraph '0030! paragraph '0064! - paragraph '0069!; figures -----	1-5, 7, 9-12, 16
X	US 3 670 731 A (HARMON CARLYLE) 20 June 1972 (1972-06-20) column 4, line 71 - column 6, line 6; figures 4-6 ----- -/--	1, 3-5, 10-13, 16



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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X	US 4 055 180 A (KARAMI HAMZEH) 25 October 1977 (1977-10-25) column 3, line 23 - line 48 column 6, line 25 - line 51; figures -----	1,2,4,5, 7-16
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